

HEADQUARTERS  
267TH REGIMENT  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES (PROV.)  
APO 512, U.S. ARMY

SECRET

= 1027-

1 March 1945

DATE OF INFORMATION: 20 and 24 February 1945

SUBSOURCE : As stated  
TO : Chief, SI  
THROUGH : Chief, Italian/SI  
FROM : Crabbe  
SUBJECT : Poland's new government

1. Subsource. Minister Mathias Loret resigned as Italian representative at the time of Mikolajczyk's resignation as Prime Minister of the Polish Government-in-Exile. Loret nonetheless still possesses a semi-official status, having the privileges of a diplomatic pouch and serving as London courier for Casimir Pappe, the Polish representative accredited to the Vatican. Loret was last in London about two months ago and will return there to consult with Mikolajczyk when the ex-Prime Minister returns from his projected visit to Moscow. A career diplomat, Loret belongs to no political party, but is a confidant and supporter of Mikolajczyk because he believes collaboration with Russia to be Poland's only hope. In part, the observations presented below were made by the Polish diplomat during a conversation with the two leaders of the Hungarian underground, Dr. Geza Soos and Major Domokos Hadnagy, respectively first secretary and military delegate of the Hungarian Independence Movement.

2. Basis of the new government. The new government will be a coalition affair; all parties will be represented. It is common belief that Russia cannot now act alone in forming the new government and that the Western powers will exercise an influence. With the support of these powers, Mikolajczyk will try in Moscow to have Lwow and the oil fields of Borislav, but these are not conditions sine qua non. The new government must be formed.

3. Character of the Lublin government. It is evident that some members of the Lublin cabinet will be included in the new government. This Loret regards as the great danger

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2E  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

- 1 -

SECRET

SECRET

since, in his opinion, the Lublin group is principally composed of comintern agents. None of its members are Polish communists and some of them are not even Polish citizens. Furthermore, the Lublin government has no popular following whatsoever. This is in sharp contrast to the position of the London Poles, who months ago had radio contact with the Polish underground four times a day and brought people out and sent them in continuously.

4. Attitude of the Polish Army in Italy. Loret states that the entirety of the Polish Army in Italy is anti-Russian. The major part of this army comes from eastern Poland--40 per cent from the territories which will go to Russia--from where its members had first been deported by the Russians. Then 150,000 of these deportees were released under the Sikorski agreement. But the one and a half million Poles not so released are badly treated by the Russians, a fact of which the Poles in Italy, due to their own experience, are acutely aware. After the Yalta Conference it proved very difficult to explain the situation to the Polish troops, none of whom have complete confidence in Russia. While most of the enlisted men in Italy will want to return to Poland after the war, the officers will tend to remain in exile.

5. Attitude toward the Big Three. In general, the Poles regard Roosevelt, Stalin, and especially Churchill as dictators. They are pleased with the fact that the Republican Party is now collaborating with the Roosevelt administration, as they see in the anti-Russian attitude some possibility of help for the Poles.

6. Attitude toward the Vatican. According to Loret, the Poles have no hope of support from the Vatican unless the Holy See can reach an understanding with Soviet Russia. In any case a decline in Vatican influence in Eastern Europe seems inevitable.

7. Attitude toward the Jews. The murder of so many hundreds of thousands of Polish Jews has had its effect on the Poles, and there is great respect among the troops in Italy for what the Jews have suffered. Loret is convinced that there will be no further anti-Semitism in Poland. On the other hand, he is certain that most of the Jews remaining in Poland will collaborate with the Russians.

8. Loret's position. Loret explained why he had supported Mikolajczyk as against the other London Poles. "I am no less Polish than they are," he stated, "and no less impressed by Poland's tragic fate. But their policy is based on the supposition of war between the Anglo-Saxons and the Russians." Except for himself and one or two other

SECRET

moderates, all the Poles in Rome are counting on an immediate war between the Bolsheviks and the Western powers. "This is indeed a long run possibility, but for the present it is out of the question. I am taking the realistic step because that is all that remains."

SECRET